

As a private U.S. citizen, I want to express my serious concerns about the effects of the 1996 Communication Act, leading to the consolidation of media ownership and, as a result, to the decrease in variety of programming and of news opinions. This media consolidation ultimately threatens free speech and the effective working of democracy. I implore you to recognize the dangers posed by any further deregulation of the communications industry. Mr. Powell, in his pursuit of further deregulation, is either pandering to the influence of the media giants or refusing to amend his theory of greater market access/diversity (via deregulation) given the clear evidence of changes in media ownership and content over the past decade.